

The new **U.S. Embassy** in New Delhi was formally opened on January 5 in the presence of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, his daughter, Indira Gandhi, and other guests. "I was enchanted by the building. I think it is a very beautiful structure and a very attractive combination of various typical Indian motifs with latest modern techniques," Nehru commented later.

The embassy was the first constructed under the new U.S. government directive that its buildings abroad should be in keeping with the cultural, architectural and climatic conditions of their host countries. Designed by architect Edward Durell Stone, it also had the first Indian-built, internal-dial telephone exchange.

"To me this building is symbolic of what can be achieved through the cooperation of our two countries. From beginning to end it has been a joint venture," U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker said at the opening ceremony.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chITsf000sM>
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,937065,00.html>

50 Years Ago

What Americans and Indians were doing in 1959.

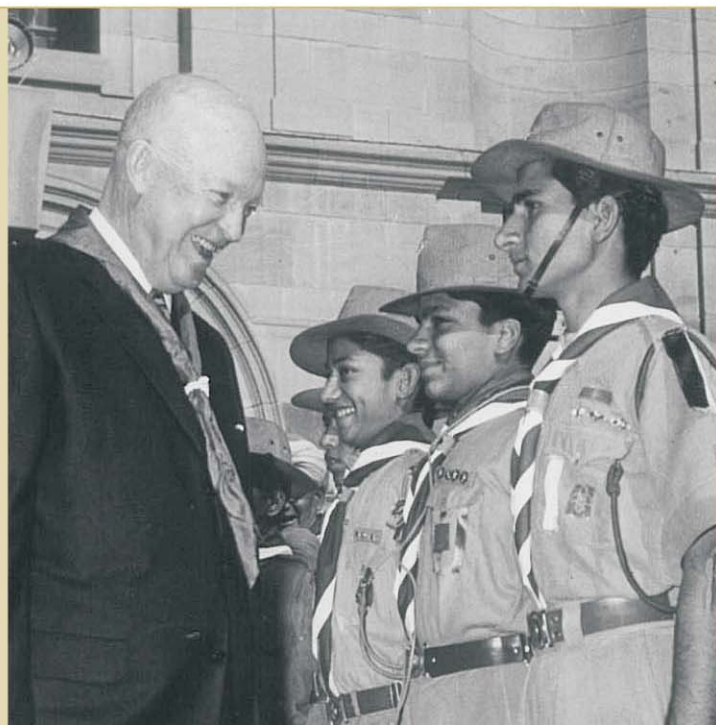
By DEEPANJALI KAKATI

More than a million people greeted President Dwight D. Eisenhower when he landed in New Delhi as part of an 11-nation tour. The enthusiastic crowd chanted "Eisenhower zindabad!" as the motorcade carrying President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru proceeded from Palam Airport to Rashtrapati Bhavan. The entire city was decked with lights and thousands of Indian and American flags to greet the first U.S. president to visit India.

During the four December days he spent in India, President Eisenhower addressed Parliament, attended a state banquet, received a Doctor of Laws degree from Delhi University, was entertained by Indian singers and musicians, visited the Taj Mahal in Agra and a village nearby. From Indian leaders to common people, the president created a bond that would endure despite differences on major international issues in the following decades.

Speaking to the largest crowd ever gathered, up to that time, at the Ram Lila Grounds in New Delhi, President Eisenhower said, "I see in the magnificent spectacle before me a soul-stirring testimonial by half a million of India's people to America, a sister democracy—and to the cause for which both India and America stand: The cause of peace and friendship in freedom.... We who are free—and who prize our freedom above all other gifts of God and nature—must know each other better; trust each other more; support each other."

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=11620&st=eisenhower&st1=India>



A LOOK BACK

Amriki Mela, the \$2.5 million American exhibit at the first World Agriculture Fair, in New Delhi, was America's largest effort of its kind in an international exposition.

"The American exhibit at this fair presents

the role we feel agriculture can play in furtherance of a healthy, fruitful, peaceful world where the families of all nations can live in freedom from fear of famine and war," said President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who opened the Amriki Mela during his India trip in December.

Built around the theme of "Food, Family, Friendship, Freedom," the exhibits were displayed in four buildings spread over two hectares. Visitors even got to see a nuclear training reactor that produced radio isotopes used in agriculture.

Other displays included the latest farm equipment, reproductions of American farms, a dairy milking room, a poultry section, packaging machinery, hybrid grains, demonstrations of U.S. agricultural research. Members of America's 4-H Club provided live folk music and dances.

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=11618>



Doordarshan, India's public television network, went on air on September 15 with half an hour of programming from a makeshift studio in New Delhi.

The United States provided some equipment for the experimental venture, which was started with the aim of discovering what TV could achieve in community development and formal education.

Initially, programs were telecast twice a week and the audience comprised members of 180 television clubs in and around New Delhi. They were given free TV sets by UNESCO.

Now, Doordarshan reaches more than 90 percent of India's population.

<http://www.ddindia.gov.in/Kendra/Delhi/Program+Column+3/delhi.htm>



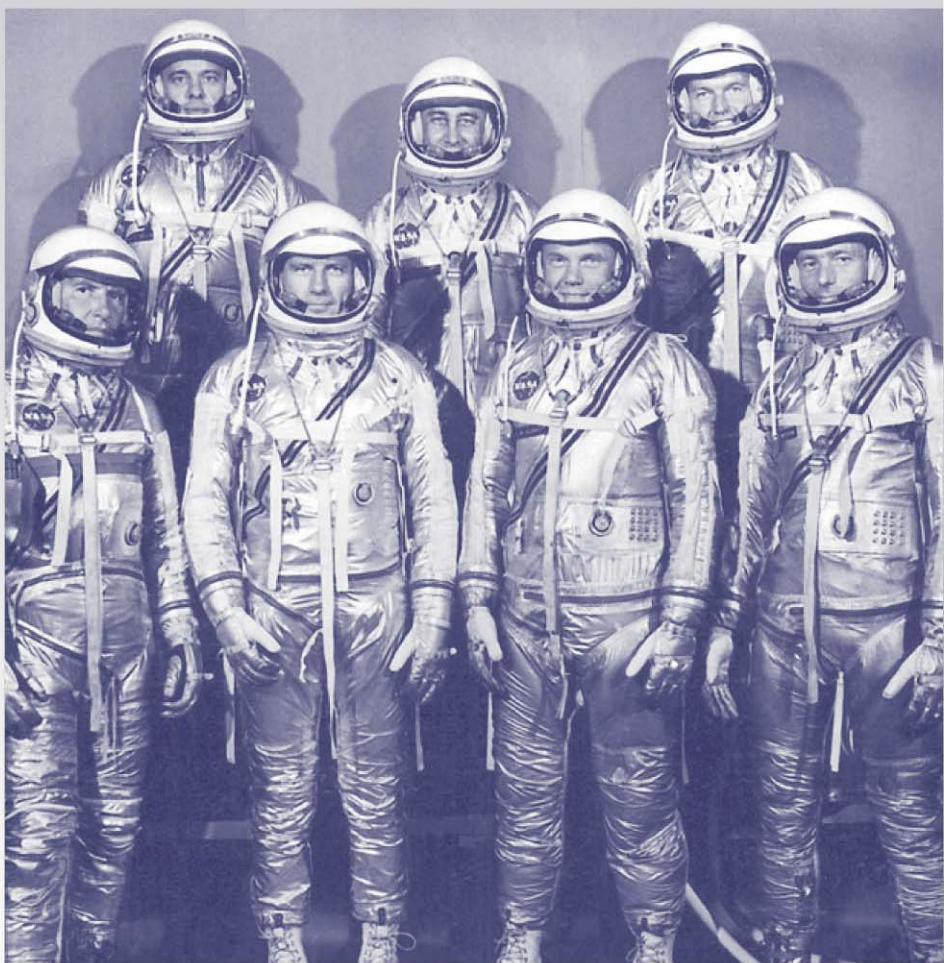
The first American astronauts—the Mercury Seven—were introduced to the world at a press conference in Washington, D.C. on April 9. Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Cooper, Jr., John H. Glenn, Jr., Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Walter M. Schirra, Alan B. Shepard, Jr. and Donald K. "Deke" Slayton became the new heroes, embodying the spirit of space exploration.

Project Mercury, completed in 1963, was the United States' first man-in-space program. Six manned and eight automated flights were completed as part of the project, proving that human spaceflight was possible. These paved the way for the Gemini and Apollo programs as well as for further human spaceflight.

The U.S. space program witnessed another landmark event on May 28 when a squirrel monkey and a rhesus monkey, Able and Miss Baker, became the first living beings to successfully return to Earth after a suborbital space flight.

<http://www.pao.ksc.nasa.gov/history/mercury/mercury.htm>

Front row (from left): Walter M. Schirra, Donald K. "Deke" Slayton, John H. Glenn, Jr., and Scott Carpenter. Back row (from left): Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom and L. Gordon Cooper, Jr.



Miss Baker

One of the world's most popular fashion dolls, **Barbie** made its debut on March 9. Its inventor, Ruth Handler, co-founder of the toy company Mattel, named the doll after her daughter, Barbara. Dressed in a black and white striped swimsuit with her signature ponytail, Barbie was introduced to the world at the American International Toy Fair in New York City.

The first Barbie sold for \$3 and was a great success, with 351,000 dolls sold in 1959. Since then, the 11½ inch doll has had more than 80 careers—from rock star to flight attendant to paleontologist and U.S. presidential candidate.

Barbie turned Indian in 1982 with the launch of the India Barbie. The doll's other Indian looks were the Princess of India Barbie and the Diwali Barbie.

Currently a \$1.5 billion-per-year industry, Barbie also made it to No. 43 in the book, *The 101 Most Influential People Who Never Lived*.
<http://www.barbiecollector.com/>



MAX NASH © AP/WIDEWORLD

Gigi was the big winner at the **Academy Awards**, winning nine Oscars. Besides Best Picture and Best Director (for Vincente Minnelli), the movie won awards for its music, costumes and cinematography.

The musical was based on a novel by French writer Colette. Starring Louis Jourdan, Leslie Caron and Maurice Chevalier (left to right in foreground below), the movie follows the life of a young Parisian girl, Gigi, being groomed for a career as a courtesan and her relationship with a wealthy, cultured man who discovers he is in love with her.

A day after the movie won its nine Oscars, telephone operators at the offices of its production studio, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) were apparently told to answer all phone calls with, "Hello, M-Gigi-M."

Gigi was released in India in 1959.

<http://movies.nytimes.com/movie/19761/Gigi/overview>



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BYRON ROLLINS © AP/WIDEWORLD

Hawaii became the 50th U.S. state when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation on August 21 and announced the design for the new 50-star American flag.

"We will wish for her prosperity, security, happiness and a growing closer relationship with all of the other states. We know that she is ready to do her part to make this Union a stronger nation—a stronger people than it was before because of her presence as a full sister to the other 49 states. So all of us say to her, 'good luck,'" he said.

President Eisenhower supported the idea of statehood for Hawaii early in his administration but appropriate legislation failed to make it through Congress until the Hawaii Admission Act of 1959. He signed the bill into law on March 18. The citizens of Hawaii voted in a referendum to accept the statehood bill in June, paving the way for the proclamation in August.

http://gohawaii.about.com/od/hawaiianhistory3/a/admission_day.htm



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